

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

August 13-19, 2007

V2, Issue 44



Weekly wrap-up

Governor promotes motorcycle safety in southern Indiana

Aug. 17, 2007- Governor Daniels was joined by leaders of motorcycling organizations from across the state for the third annual American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE) Ride with the Governor through southern Indiana. The governor, along with several hundred riders, made stops in Shelbyville, Columbus, Seymour, Salem and Paoli to promote motorcycle safety and awareness.

"We work hard at staying in touch with the people of this state by traveling all the time, staying overnight in folks' houses and listening very carefully. Each year, this ride is a great way to reach out to Hoosiers while reminding them to share the roads with motorcycles," said Gov. Daniels.

After departing from the Statehouse, the governor and members of the Indiana State Police led the pack of motorcyclists throughout the southern part of the state. At each stop, ride participants and local Hoosiers visited with the governor and learned about the importance of motorcycle safety.



Aug. 10, 2007- Governor Daniels with ABATE Ride participants Vince and Barbie Brown during a stop at the Shelbyville Public Square.

Daniels visits attractions and contests at Indiana State Fair



Aug. 15, 2007- Governor Daniels concluded his series of visits to the 151st Indiana State Fair with a trip through Pioneer Village. He ate a country-style lunch with homesteaders, watched a demonstration on quilt-making, and visited the antique tractor display.

First Lady Cheri Daniels took home two blue ribbons after placing first in the annual celebrity cow milking and watermelon seed spitting contests. Mrs. Daniels also participated in the corn husking competition.

Aug. 15, 2007- Governor Daniels meets Mitch, a calf born during the Indiana State Fair and named in honor of the governor. The calf is owned by Paul Luken of Birdseye.

Gov. Daniels appoints David Reynolds as SSACI director

Aug. 14, 2007- Governor Mitch Daniels today appointed David Reynolds as executive director of the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI). Reynolds currently serves as the deputy budget director for the state's budget agency. He will begin his new duties on August 27.

SSACI provides need-based grants and scholarships to Hoosiers attending Indiana colleges and universities to pursue four- or two-year degrees. The agency awards nearly \$250 million annually to approximately 50,000 students.

[Read the news release.](#)

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor asks former Indiana University SPEA dean to lead review of IDEM permit process

Aug. 13, 2007- Governor Mitch Daniels has asked the former dean of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, James Barnes, to spearhead a review of the state and federal laws about Great Lakes water quality and the state's process to implement those laws.

In June, the state Department of Environmental Management issued a new wastewater treatment permit to British Petroleum's (BP) Whiting facility. The permit is more restrictive than previous permits but it allows BP to increase the amount of total suspended solids and ammonia in treated wastewater 3,500 feet from the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The company met all state and federal requirements, and U.S. EPA approved the permit as fully consistent with current federal and state water quality laws. However, there has been widespread criticism of the permit since its issuance.

"Hoosiers love Lake Michigan as much as anyone and would never knowingly do anything to endanger its health. That goes doubly for the conscientious state environmental employees who studied the BP permit application," said Daniels.

"Indiana's standards are tougher than the federal rules, and, as far as we know, fully protective of the lake's water quality. On my order, we rechecked the science on this point, and reconfirmed our staff findings with the EPA," said the governor. "But as some have continued to question that judgment, I am seeking yet another opinion about the scientific adequacy of the standards our state has been using these last 10 years."

The governor has asked Barnes to:

- Conduct a review of the current federal and state laws concerning Great Lakes water quality and permitting, including assessment of whether these laws are sufficiently protective of the Great Lakes system.
 - Assess IDEM's actions to implement those laws in BP's permit, both in the form of discharge limits and other requirements such as monitoring, biological testing and assessment.
- Evaluate the impact of BP's proposed discharge on Lake Michigan's quality and uses as a source of drinking water, recreation, and aquatic life.

Daniels asked Barnes to complete the review within six weeks. Barnes said he will contact other experts, as needed, to help him conduct the review.

"The state's standards and permitting process that have been in place since the Bayh Administration in the mid-1990s are suddenly the subject of skepticism," said Daniels. "Although I have full confidence in IDEM's staff and leadership, I believe it is necessary to have a credible, independent evaluation of the permitting decision and outcome."

Barnes is the former dean of the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University where he currently teaches. He has testified and consulted on a number of environmental matters and currently serves as the chair of the EPA's Environmental Finance Advisory Board. He helped form the EPA, was the first chief of staff to then Administrator Bill Ruckelshaus, and later served the agency in other capacities. He previously was the vice president of America's Clean Water Foundation as well as a trustee of the National Institute for Global Environmental Change (NIGEC).

BP sought the water discharge permit after announcing in 2006 that it would invest \$3 billion into an expansion of its Whiting facility to process crude oil from Canada. IDEM followed all normal procedures in issuing the permit to BP; in fact, the permit is more stringent than normally would be required by federal law because Indiana has designated Lake Michigan as an outstanding state resource deserving special protection.

A look ahead...

Governor Daniels will travel to Kendallville, Nappanee, Claypool, Knox, Lakeville, Munster and Merrillville this week.